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Bangalore Mirror

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Brands, scan to know more

Source: GWI, all internet users aged 18+, Feb 2025, and 1P Internal Data, India, June 2025.

YouTube Shorts

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Source: GWI, all internet users aged 18+, Feb 2025, and 1P Internal Data, India, June 2025.

YouTube Shorts

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Steady rise in deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty gas geysers prompts police to go home to home with cautionary notes: Keep at least one window open if using this appliance, avoid long, continuous use, and check for early signs of malfunction

THE SILENT KILLER

Atiya Firdos
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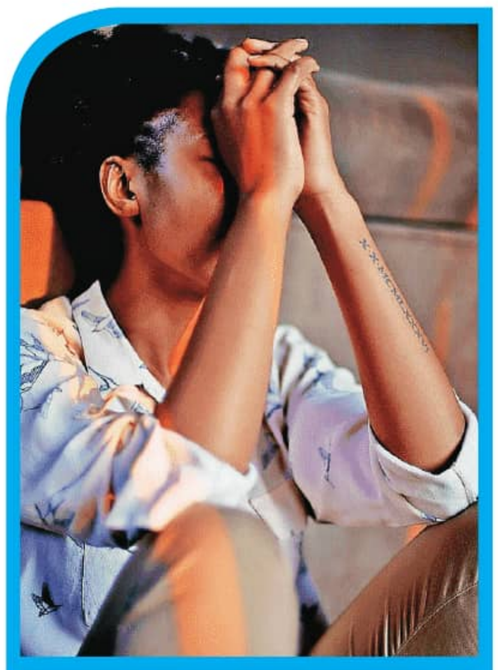
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Another and her young daughter died of suspected carbon monoxide poisoning from a faulty gas geyser in Govindarajanagar, prompting the West Division Police to launch a dedicated safety awareness campaign under the Mane Manege Police programme. The incident has renewed concern over the widespread use of gas geysers in cramped, poorly ventilated bathrooms, a recurring and often overlooked household hazard in Bengaluru.

Experts say that carbon monoxide (CO) is produced when LPG burns incompletely, a problem frequently seen in older, unserved, or poorly installed gas geysers. Because CO has no colour, smell, or irritant effect, residents inhale it without realising they are being exposed.

According to safety specialists, the gas begins

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »



READ THE ROOM

Health professionals highlight gap in student mental health support as colleges not putting tech and digital platforms to good use

CITY PAGE 2

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THINGS TO DO

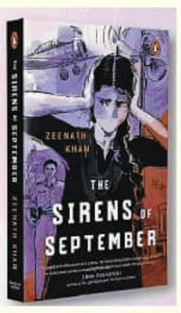
01 Celebrating craft

Rajasthan Grameen Mela, organised by artisans from across the country, is hosting an exhibition and sale featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms and handicrafts, dress materials, and many more traditional creations. **Where: Banashankari Mahila Samaja; When: Until December 14**

02 Picture perfect

India Art Festival (IAF) is back in Bengaluru for its fifth edition, hosting a vibrant showcase of contemporary Indian art, bringing together over 20 galleries and 300 artists from 25 cities across India. **Where: Crown Pavilions, Palace Ground; When: Dec 12 to 14**

03 Stories untold



Atta Galatta is hosting author Zeenath Khan for a discussion on her powerful new novel, The Sirens of September, a sweeping work of historical fiction set against the turbulent backdrop of Hyderabad's 1948 integration, Partition, and the shadowy world of espionage. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Dec 12, 5 pm**

04 Creative constructs

The Indian Institute of Interior Designers (IIID), Bengaluru Chapter, is set to host the 5th edition of Designuru 5.0, a four-day citywide festival celebrating the best of architecture, interior design, art, craft, technology, and culture. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until Dec 14**

05 Sonic surge

Thaikkudam Bridge will be performing live, bringing their signature fusion of rock, folk, classical, indie, and world music in a high energy concert. **Where: Forum South, Konanakunte; When: December 13, 7 pm**

Tech tools could bridge mental health care gap

Recent study says digital solutions can be used to enhance mental health support for students, allowing for blended care approach that combines online tools with in-person therapy and aid

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Health professionals highlight that India's higher education system is facing a growing gap in student mental health support, with campuses struggling to meet rising needs through traditional services alone. Even though young people are comfortable with technology and often prefer digital platforms, there remains an untapped potential for judicious development and implementation of such platforms for integration with mainstream services to strengthen mental health care in colleges and universities.

A recent paper, published in the Online Journal of Public Health Informatics by Dr Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS and her colleagues, draws attention to this missed opportunity and examines how digital solutions can be leveraged to support student wellbeing needs.

According to the studies reviewed in the paper, youth and early adulthood are particularly vulnerable stages, with about 75 per cent of mental health conditions beginning before the age of 24. India's higher education system is vast, with over 1,100 universities and 45,000+ colleges, mostly private, enrolling 43.3 million students in 2021-22. With the NEP targeting a 50 per cent gross enrolment ratio by 2035, ensuring accessible mental health support across institutions becomes increasingly important.

The paper points out several obstacles that make it hard to use digital mental health platforms effectively. These include a lack of research from low- and middle-income countries, low digital literacy among users, insufficient regulatory mechanisms for mental health apps, language barriers, and the challenge of keeping students engaged over time. The authors pointed out that colleges and universities need strong policies on data privacy, confidentiality, and transparency about how students' information will be handled.

Technology, when carefully integrated into campus support systems, can widen access, reduce stigma, and improve efficiency in student mental health care, says Professor of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS

Dr Mehrotra said that effective implementation requires features such as algorithm-driven nudges to encourage professional help-seeking when circumstances warrant expert care, clear crisis-support guidance with multiple pathways for assistance, integration with offline services, and transparent communication about the capabilities and limitations of both digital and in-person interventions.

The paper lists many possible uses for digital platforms in supporting student mental health, including training faculty, offering reliable information, anonymous self-screening tools, peer support forums, and guided self-help programmes. It also highlights the value of targeted digital outreach, blended care that appropriately combines online tools with in-person therapy, and access to crisis helplines.

Potential strategies at government level

The paper also highlights important actions that the government can take, such as developing clear national guidelines for mental health app developers to ensure safety and quality of content, creating user guidance tools, considering training of service providers in blended delivery methods, and holding national-level multistakeholder consultations to coordinate such efforts and develop recommendations. The authors also call for more public investment, dedicated budgets for student mental health, exploration of blended-finance models, and long-term research to evaluate the effectiveness of digital mental health and its potential integration into mainstream services.

Dr Mehrotra said that technology, when carefully integrated into campus support systems, can widen access, reduce stigma, and improve efficiency in student mental health care. "Digital tools must complement, not replace, the human relationships that remain central to effective student mental health support systems on campuses," added Dr Mehrotra.

Bannerghatta Biological Park to remain open on Dec 30

The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) authorities have announced that the zoo will be open to the public on Tuesday, December 30. Normally, the park remains closed every Tuesday. However, on the eve of Christmas and New Year holidays, on December 30, 2025, all units of Bannerghatta Biological Park, including the Zoo, Safari, and Butterfly Park, will remain open to the public. Tickets can also be purchased on the zoo website (bannerughattabiopark.org).

— BMB

Mobile passport service arrives in Bengaluru

New mobile passport service to help in areas lacking easy access to passport centres

A new mobile passport service has been launched in Yelahanka, allowing residents to complete passport formalities near their homes. The Ministry of External Affairs has introduced this mobile passport vehicle to help applicants in areas lacking easy access to passport centres. People can book a slot online and get their documents verified and biometric data captured at the designated locality without travelling to the regional passport office. The service, currently on trial in Bengaluru, will handle around 49 to 50 applications a day and will complement existing passport counters. Applicants must first submit their forms and pay the fee online, then select the mobile service location and reserve a date and time. On the scheduled day, they can visit the mobile unit with their original documents for verification, photographs and fingerprints. Officials said Karnataka receives nearly 90,000 applications each month and the service will soon be expanded across the state due to high demand. — BMB

Vande Bharat bookings soar past 100%

The Ernakulam–Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express has crossed 100 per cent ticket bookings within just a month of receiving the green signal on November 11. More than 55,000 passengers have travelled between the two cities so far. This is the first inter-state semi high-speed premium train connecting Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It covers the 580 kilometre route in 8 hours and 40 minutes and runs daily except on Wednesdays. In November, 11,447 passengers travelled from Bengaluru to Ernakulam with an average booking level of 127 per cent, while December saw 16,129 travellers with 117 per cent bookings. From Ernakulam to Bengaluru, 12,786 people travelled in November with 141 per cent occupancy, and the first week of December saw the number rise to 14,742 with 106 per cent bookings. Railway officials said the train has become popular with daily commuters and tourists. Occupancy is calculated by including waitlisted passengers. With the New Year approaching, December ticket bookings are expected to rise further. — BMB

Student dies by suicide after ₹24k online con

A 22-year-old MBA student from Acharya College died by suicide in his rented room in Shantinagar, allegedly after being threatened and blackmailed through an online video call. The deceased, identified as Jagan Mohan, was a second-year MBA student residing near the college.

According to police, Jagan had been inside his room since Wednesday morning. Around 3 am, he allegedly took his life by hanging. Before his death, he left behind a handwritten note mentioning three mobile numbers, stating that the individuals associated with these numbers were responsible for his death. The note also reportedly contained details about him losing a ₹24,000 transfer, which he believed had pushed him into distress.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Jagan may have been targeted in an online scam, with threats made if he failed to pay. Police suspect that the fear and sustained pressure from the threats may have led him to take this extreme step.

The Soladevanahalli Police visited the scene soon after receiving information. The body was taken to Victoria Hospital, where a post-mortem examination was conducted, and later handed over to the family. Police have begun tracing the mobile numbers mentioned in the death note and are investigating. A case of unnatural death has been registered. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Brother-sibling clash ends in murder

A 35-year-old man was murdered by his own brother in Yarab Nagar, Banashankari, early on Wednesday. The incident occurred between 5 am and 6 am, following a heated quarrel between the siblings.

According to police, both brothers worked as Arabic teachers, and their parents had been staying at Musain's house. On the day of the incident, the parents visited Mujahid's residence and stayed there. During the visit, the deceased, Mohammad Mujahid (35), allegedly used foul language towards their mother, triggering a confrontation with his brother, Mohammad Musain (23).

Musain reportedly demanded that Mujahid apologise to their mother, but when he refused, the argument escalated. In a fit of rage, Musain allegedly attacked Mujahid with a sharp knife, inflicting injuries to his neck, stomach, and chest. Mujahid succumbed to his wounds and died on the spot.

Meanwhile, Musain is admitted to hospital due to a scuffle and sustained minor injuries. Their father later filed a complaint with the police, leading to the registration of a murder case at Banashankari Police Station.

Police have initiated an investigation, and the accused, who is currently undergoing treatment, is expected to be discharged from hospital tomorrow. He will be arrested once his medical procedures are completed. Further investigation is ongoing. **–BMB**

Bank freezes accounts suddenly: 'Do you want people to lose money?'

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday disposed of a public interest litigation (PIL) that sought the mandatory issuance of a show-cause notice before authorities freeze bank accounts in cases involving cybercrime complaints.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha observed that insisting on prior notice could undermine efforts to swiftly recover siphoned funds. "You have to look at it from the perspective of ensuring recovery instantaneously. The first hour is called the golden hour… what do you want, for a person to lose the money?" the Bench remarked orally.

Petitioner Pavan Vijay Sharma had argued that freezing an individual's bank account without notice amounted to a drastic step that required procedural safeguards. His counsel, S Sudharsan, also urged the court to direct the formulation of guidelines governing such account-freezing powers.

Appearing for the Union government, Deputy Solicitor-General Shanthi Bhushan H informed the Bench that a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the issue had already been circulated among stakeholders and would be finalised after feedback is received.

Taking note of this development, the court declined to issue additional directions. "Since the respondents have already initiated action for the framing of guidelines, the court does not find it appropriate to issue any further orders at this stage. The petition is disposed of," the Bench said.

IN HIGH COURT

The judges, while emphasising the urgency required in cyber-fraud cases, highlighted the risks of delaying action. Referring to senior citizens and other unsuspecting victims who have lost life savings to online scams, the Bench cautioned that inserting a show-cause requirement could severely undermine recovery efforts. The court clarified that the disposal of the PIL does not bar any individual or entity whose account is frozen from seeking remedies in accordance with the law. **–BMB**

'Don't tinker with poor's medicines': Jan Aushadhi Kendras to stay

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday set aside a State government order directing the closure of all Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) functioning inside government hospitals.

A single-judge Bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna at the Dharwad Bench allowed a batch of petitions filed by Rakesh Mahalingappa L and others. While the detailed judgment is awaited, the Bench recorded its decision as: "Allowed and quashed."

During the hearing, the court orally observed: "We will not allow one wing of the government to tinker with the medicines being given to the poor, whether it is free of cost or for a nominal price."

The government advocate defended the May 14 order, arguing that the State had introduced a system of distributing free medicines in government hospitals, making the presence of Jan Aushadhi Kendras on hospital premises unnecessary. The Kendras were free to operate outside hospital premises but not on government land.

The petitioners contended that the order was issued in haste, without consultation or notice, and ran contrary to public interest. They argued that Jan Aushadhi Kendras did not interfere with government distribution of free medicines and complemented public welfare efforts.

They highlighted investments in infrastructure, medicine stock, equipment, staff, and statutory compliance, asserting that they had a "legitimate expectation" to continue operations. The abrupt order, they submitted, violated their right to livelihood under Article 19(1)(g) and their right to life under Article 21.

They further stated that Jan Aushadhi Kendras supply generic medicines at 50–90% lower prices, benefitting economically vulnerable citizens — including senior citizens, daily-wage earners, and patients requiring long-term medication. Shutting them down harms the public's right to health rather than protecting it. **–BMB**

City bars inspected after Goa tragedy

After the Goa pub incident and ahead of New Year celebrations, Bengaluru police have begun checking safety measures in pubs and hotels across the city. Officers are preparing reports on compliance in areas with the highest number of pubs, such as MG Road, Koramangala and Indiranagar. Police have also begun discussions with pub owners, while Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh has written to the Fire and Emergency Services Department seeking inspections of all pubs and hotels.

Singh told reporters that the checks are a precaution to ensure public safety and to prevent any incident similar to the Goa tragedy. Local police have already started inspecting pubs, bars, restaurants and commercial hubs in their jurisdictions. Meanwhile, the commissioner has proposed a new ACP subdivision in Chikkabanavara following the recent inclusion of Rajanukunte and Madanayakanahalli stations within the city limits. With large crowds expected on MG Road and Brigade Road for New Year celebrations, the Joint Commissioner of Police (West) has held a series of meetings with DCPs, ACPs and inspectors to plan security. Police stations have been instructed to prepare detailed data on pubs and commercial centres and to urge owners to strengthen safety measures. **–BMB**

Bangalore Mirror

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

Ahead of year-end festivities, police ask all venues to tick safety checklist boxes

A venue can be vibrant without compromising

BM had written on Dec 9 about how several city clubs lack fire safety measures

'Not my ad': Rahul fights defamation case in HC

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday informed the Karnataka High Court that no material exists to connect him to the publication or social media posts that the State BJP claims are defamatory.

The court was hearing Gandhi's petition seeking quashing of criminal defamation proceedings initiated over the Congress party's "Corruption Rate Card" advertisement and related tweets. The advertisement alleged that posts and transfers during the previous BJP government carried fixed "rates" and "commissions". The BJP has called the claims baseless, defamatory, and a product of "fanciful imagination".

The complaint also objects to the phrase "trouble engine Sarkar", allegedly used in place of the BJP's "double engine Sarkar" slogan, arguing that it was intended to tarnish the party's reputation ahead of the Assembly elections.

Appearing for Gandhi, Senior Advocate Shashi Kiran Shetty told Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav that the complaint itself does not link Gandhi to the advertisement or any tweet. "There is no publication or tweet attributed to the petitioner. Even assuming something was published by someone else, it is directed at the government, not the complainant. The government has not initiated any action," he argued.

Shetty further noted that Gandhi did not hold any office in the party at the time of the alleged offence. "There is no document to show I was the Vice-President of the party; it is undisputed I was not VP when the tweet was published," he said.

He added that there was no evidence of Gandhi authorising the advertisement, nor any material showing mens rea, and no proof of any tweet by him. Referring to the advertisement, he stated that it conflated the State government with a political party: "The Government of Karnataka is not BJP."

Opposing the petition, Advocate Vinod Kumar M, appearing for the BJP, said the allegations targeted the party. The High Court continued the interim protection granted earlier and posted the matter for further hearing on December 18. **–BMB**

Cops smash street 'cure' tents

For months, quacks had pitched makeshift treatment tents along major city roads, offering quick cures and traditional remedies to unsuspecting citizens. Now, they are facing tough action after a techie was cheated of ₹41 lakh in the name of treatment for sexual health problems. Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh has ordered a full crackdown on these unauthorised setups and warned that anyone practising medicine without permission will face strict legal measures.

He said the Jnanabharathi fraud case is being handled seriously, and officials have been instructed to clear all illegal treatment units operating under the banner of Ayurveda or folk medicine. Many people have fallen prey to these quacks. The Commissioner urged residents to seek help only from qualified doctors and assured them that action will be taken without hesitation against those deceiving the public. **–BMB**

Switch to electric geysers advised in smaller homes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

displacing oxygen in the bloodstream within minutes, leading to sudden fainting, rapid loss of consciousness, and ultimately death, a process described as occurring "without struggle".

In the recent incident, experts point out the possibility that the bathroom's windows and ventilator had been kept shut, preventing any circulation of fresh air. This might have created a closed environment where CO accumulated quickly. Based on the conditions observed, officials believe the victims would have collapsed shortly after switching on the geyser, and by the time family members managed to open the bathroom door, they were already unresponsive.

> **"When gas geysers fail to burn fuel perfectly, carbon monoxide builds up rapidly, and people collapse before they even realise what is happening**
> — Police officer

Police alarmed over pattern

West Division Police say the deaths reflect a growing pattern across the city. Over the last five years, Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka have recorded 40 deaths in 32 gas-geyser-related incidents, with most victims found in sealed bathrooms where toxic gases accumulated.

In the Govindarajanagar incident, 30-year-old Chandini and her four-year-old daughter Yuvi were found unconscious inside their bathroom and later declared dead at Victoria Hospital. A case has been registered, and post-mortem results are awaited.

Data shows a steady rise in such accidents, one death in 2019, two in 2020, 15 in 2021, 12 in 2022, and 10 in 2023. Police say complaints related to gas geyser malfunctions, incomplete combustion, and bathroom gas build-up have increased, particularly in households with limited ventilation.

Awareness drive

To curb these preventable fatalities, the West Division Police are incorporating gas-geyser safety awareness into the Mane Manege Police outreach initiative. Officers will conduct door-to-door visits, advising residents to keep at least one window open while using a gas geyser, avoid long showers with the geyser running continuously, and check for early signs of malfunction such as soot, discoloured flames, or unusual smells.

Households, especially those in compact homes, will be encouraged to switch to safer alternatives like electric geysers.

Police officials stress that the core risk lies in partial combustion. When an LPG-based heater does not burn fuel completely, it releases carbon monoxide, which can accumulate within minutes in a closed bathroom. Such conditions are common, officers say, because families often shut doors and windows for privacy or security.

A senior officer said, "We cannot confirm whether every manufacturer consistently maintains the required standards, but the cases we see show one thing clearly, when gas geysers fail to burn fuel perfectly, carbon monoxide builds up rapidly, and people collapse before they even realise what is happening."

He added that geyser units and LPG cylinders should ideally be installed in open or well-ventilated areas, but many homes place them indoors due to space constraints. In some cases, inferior appliance quality or poor installation has also contributed to gas leaks and, occasionally, gas bursts.

Tiger attack that never was

Following a preliminary investigation into an alleged 'tiger attack' in the Kundhakere range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve on December 10, the Bandipur administration has confirmed that no tiger attack took place and the incident was fabricated.

"The injury that the villager has sustained is not due to a tiger attack. It is a false claim. The person injured has stated that a tiger jumped over him and he fell, leading to the injuries. However, that appears unlikely," a senior official told BM.

The incident, as claimed by the injured person, happened on the outskirts of Bandipur Tiger Reserve on December 10. Maliappa, the villager, says he was herding cattle back to his village adjoining the Kundhakere range, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, when a tiger reportedly pounced on him, causing injuries. **—BMB**

SC trashes Prajwal Revanna's plea to transfer rape cases to another court

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea by former JD-S MP Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, seeking transfer of the trial in rape cases from a Special MP/MLA Court in Bengaluru to another sessions court.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi declined to accept Revanna's contention that the trial judge was prejudiced against him.

Observing that an earlier conviction by the same court in another rape case could not be a ground to infer bias, the CJI-led Bench said: "We have no reason to doubt that the officer would not be swayed by the fact that the petitioner was found guilty in the earlier case and will confine his conclusions on the basis of evidence led in the pending trial."

Senior advocates Siddharth Luthra and Siddharth Dave, appearing for Revanna, argued that remarks made by the trial judge against the counsel in the earlier case reflected bias.

However, the apex court clarified that such observations "cannot be the ground of bias" and permitted Revanna to approach the Karnataka High Court only for expunction of the remarks.

Revanna approached the Supreme Court after the Karnataka High Court rejected two writ petitions seeking transfer of trials on charges of rape, sexual harassment, voyeurism, criminal intimidation and violations under the IT Act.

In an order passed on September 24, a single-judge Bench of Justice MI Arun had held that the Special MP/MLA Court was specifically designated to try offences involving sitting and former legislators. **—IANS**

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I, Akshay b jain R/O 121,Tf-1, 3rd floor, 3rd cross, 4th main, 4th block, thyagrajnagar, bangalore -560070 ,karnataka have changed my name to Akshaay b jain

I, Shivamurthi M A S/O, Ashwathappa R/o #116, Vinayaka Hospital, B K Halli Post, Mylanahalli, Bengaluru 562149. have changed my name to Shivamurthy M A for all purposes

I, Shloka Lakka D/O, Sahaja Reddy Lakka R/o 79/2, Sunny Brooks, Sarjapur Road, Doddakanneli, Bangalore South have changed my name to Shloka Reddy Lakka for all purposes.

I Subhash S/O, Narayan Rao R/o 7b Aspen Garden, T Dasarahalli, Hessarghatta Main Road, Bangalore 560057 have changed my name to Subhash Narayan Rao.

I,IMRAN Pasha R/o #10-3/2 1st Floor Bismillaha Nagar B'lore-560029 have changed my minor daughter name from Shazad fathima to Anabiya.

I, Ravikumar Naik G R/o No. 8/1, 4th Main, 5th cross, Lottegollahalli, Bengaluru-94, changed My Name from Ravikumara Naika Golyanaika to Ravikumar Naik G for all further purposes. (Reference Date of Birth 10/06/1980). G full form is Golyanaik.

I, G SANKARAPPA alias SANKARAPPA GOLLA, S/o G Seshappa, R/o Flat No.193, Srinivasa Building, 1sr Flooe, 1st Main, Siddapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru – 560066, have changed my name as SHANKAR GOLLA, vide affidavit dated 11.12.2025, sworn before notary Nijagunaradhya T.C, Bengaluru.

I, Nihal Ashok Handigol S/o. Ashok Sankararao Handigol, R/o. # 180, 4th main, 7th cross Duo Marvel Layout, Ananthapura road, Yelahanka, Bangalore have changed my name from Nihal Handigol to Nihal Ashok Handigol for all purposes by an affidavit sworn before Public Notary K.V. Mani dated 10-12-2025

I, BIMAL KANDOI alias BIMAL AGARWAL residing at #007, Aryan Tower, V Nagenahalli Main Road, V Nagenahalli, Bangalore-560032. I have changed my name to BIMAL KUMAR KANDOI. Vide affidavit dated 01-12-2025 sworn before notary. LEELA Bengaluru

I, Venugopal J K, S/o Krishnappa, R/o #123, Kanasu Nilaya, 4th cross, Hanumanthegowdana Palya, Madavara, Madanayakanahalli, Bengaluru Rural - 562123, have changed my name from Venugopala J K to Venugopal J K, at Bengaluru for all purposes.

I, Beldari Naziya, W/o Shaik Mahammad Abrar, R/o No. 25/128-2, Matti Masjid Street, Proddatur Post, YSR District – 516360, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Shaik NazeeYa Begum for all purposes.

I, NAGARAJA M N residing at No 216, 22nd Main, 18th Cross, Vijayanagar, Bangalore – 560040. I have changed my name to NAGARAJ M N. Vide affidavit dated 10/12/2025 sworn before notary. Deepa M Bangalore

I Mrinal R/o Flat 008, Balaji Elite Apt, 24th Main, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102, Changed my Name as Mrinal Shivakumar.

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BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS	JAN: 19 FEB: 12, 26
BHUTAN 8 DAYS	FEB: 24 MAR: 16
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS	JAN: 5, 19 FEB: 2, 16
BALI 7 DAYS / VIETNAM 8 DAYS	JAN: 10, 31 / JAN: 13
HONG KONG MACAU SHENZHEN 7 DAYS	FEB: 10 MAR: 15
CHINA (SHANGHAI BEIJING XI'AN) 9 DAYS	MAR: 23, APR: 10
ANDAMAN 6 DAYS	JAN: 19 FEB: 2, 16

Centre denies compensation as revenues rise, registrations falter

Union government rejects renewed compensation mechanism, even as Karnataka's rising GST gains contrast with sharp shortfalls in stamps and registration income

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Central transfers, including tax devolution and capital investment support, show fluctuating grants but a consistent upward trend in overall fiscal assistance to Karnataka

Despite strong GST growth and steady central transfers, Karnataka's fiscal outlook tightens as registration revenues slump. Administrative delays in e-khata and digital land records are now straining collections and slowing property transactions statewide

The Union Finance Ministry has categorically ruled out any alternative mechanism to compensate producing States like Karnataka for post-GST revenue loss, stating that no such proposal is under consideration. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Parliament that Karnataka has no pending special assistance grants, firmly shutting the door on speculation about renewed compensation support after the end of the GST compensation regime in 2022. The message from the Centre is clear: Karnataka must rely on its rising GST revenues and existing fiscal transfers without expecting a new compensation framework.

The State's GST collection data indicates steady and substantial growth over the past four years, reinforcing the Centre's position. Karnataka's gross GST collections increased from ₹95,926 crore in 2021–22 to ₹1,59,563 crore in 2024–25, reflecting strong economic expansion driven by services, IT, manufacturing and robust consumption. CGST collections rose from ₹22,697 crore to ₹36,905 crore, while SGST grew from ₹28,660 crore to ₹45,314 crore. IGST collections also recorded a sharp rise, moving from ₹35,101 crore to ₹59,550 crore. Compensation cess grew from ₹9,468 crore to ₹17,794 crore, underscoring the State's strong tax performance.

Central fiscal transfers have followed an upward trajectory as well, though with some fluctuations. Karnataka's share of tax devolution rose consistently—from ₹33,284 crore in 2021–22 to ₹46,933 crore in 2024–25—amounting to ₹1,56,005 crore over four years. Grants-in-aid moved unevenly, starting at ₹7,862 crore in 2021–22, dropping to ₹4,435 crore and ₹3,769 crore in the next two years, before rising to ₹7,745 crore in 2024–25. Funds released under the Special Assistance Scheme for Capital Investment (SASCI) totalled ₹13,026 crore, strengthening the Centre's claim of adequate fiscal support.

However, while GST revenues and central transfers present a positive picture, the State's Registration and Stamps Department is facing mounting challenges. The department, Karnataka's third-largest revenue generator, has missed its target for the current financial year. Against a goal of ₹28,000 crore for 2025–26, only ₹16,335 crore had been collected by December 3, about ₹2,761 crore lower than the corresponding period last year. The department also fell short of its ₹24,000 crore target in 2024–25.

Officials attribute the shortfall to delays in issuing digital khatas under the e-Swathu and e-Aasthi systems, incomplete digitisation of revenue sites and software-related issues. The mandatory e-khata requirement introduced in October 2024 has further slowed registrations, particularly in Greater Bengaluru. Document registrations have also declined, with 15.19 lakh documents recorded by December 3 this year compared to 16.13 lakh last year.

Despite longer hours, officers say targets remain unlikely unless registration process stabilise quickly.

Speed-breaker or back-breaker?

Commuters and residents in HSR Layout are raising alarm over an uneven slope just beyond a culvert at Somasundarapalya Circle, calling it dangerous, back-breaking, and damaging to vehicles. According to the residents, the surface of the road was not levelled after the culvert work and this has been causing a lot of trouble for daily commute posing significant risks to public safety during peak commuting hours.

Kamesh, a resident of HSR Layout, explained the severity of the situation: "It's causing a gridlock during morning and evening peak hours as this is the most frequently used stretch connecting Harlur and Dalmiya Circle from HSR. This spot has no slope at all and there is almost 6 to 8 inches of gap from the road. It causes a big jerk, especially for two-wheelers and four-wheelers, putting commuters' backs at risk and damaging tyres and vehicles."

He added, "We are in Bengaluru, a world-class city as claimed by our government. Do we really need to teach our civic engineers how this hump should be? Why can't we make a proper, gradual slope? Is this rocket science? Should the authorities connect with ISRO to figure it out? I fail to understand why we always need to use social media to highlight these civic issues. Where is our hard-earned taxpayers' money going, and who is answerable for this mess?"

An uneven slope has been created as the surface was not levelled after culvert work in Somasundrapalya Circle, HSR Layout

Residents note that the ramp appears hastily built with poor alignment and finishing, creating jolts that increase the risk of accidents. Commuters report that navigating this stretch has become a daily ordeal, with frequent congestion and vehicle damage. Locals are urging authorities to urgently redesign the ramp, widen its approach and make it a smooth surface. Many have expressed frustration that repeated complaints have gone unaddressed, forcing residents to resort to social media to draw attention to these problems.

Another resident of the area said, "The culvert work was done over the last two months, but it was not fixed properly across the road. This has left a lot of gap between the tar and the slope. We raised it with the GBA officials and they finally came on Tuesday and inspected the spot and said they would fix it. But they did not give any timeline."

A commuter said officials need to intervene urgently as there are concerns that even a small slip may turn into a big accident. **–BMB**

Quota for sports persons in police, forest depts

ThTo encourage sports persons, Chief Minister iddaramaiah on Thursday announced that the state will implement 3 per cent reservation in the Forest Department, 3 per cent in the Police department and 2 per cent in various other departments for athletes.

The CM was responding to a question raised by MLC Ivan D'Souza in the Legislative Council. The state government has provided appointments to 13 athletes who have won medals in the Olympics, Paralympics, Commonwealth and Asian Games, Siddaramaiah said. "Direct appointments have been made to 70 constables and 14 PSIs in the Police Department. In addition, sports persons will be encouraged by giving 3 per cent reservation in the Forest Department, 3 per cent in the Police Department and 2 per cent in various other departments," he said.

The CM further said it is considering measures to further support the sport of Kabaddi will be considered. **–PTI**

PSI ratio boosts efficient policing, says Home Minister

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara told the Legislative Council on Thursday that fixing a 70:30 ratio between direct recruitment and promotions for Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) posts has strengthened both administrative efficiency and field performance. Responding to member DT Srinivas, he said the PSI role central to law and order, crime prevention, investigation and traffic management—demands physically and mentally fit officers with strong technical skills, especially as modern crimes increasingly involve advanced technology. While constabulary staff normally rise through two levels of promotion before qualifying for PSI rank, their relatively modest educational background can make handling today's tech-driven crime challenges difficult.

Given the distinct and demanding nature of police work, Parameshwara said it is neither practical nor appropriate to compare PSI appointments with recruitment norms of other departments. The 70:30 formula, he clarified, ensures a balanced intake of experienced personnel and technically qualified young officers. Assistant Sub- Inspectors with long service and sufficient tenure in Bengaluru police are now receiving timely promotions, ensuring career progressions. **–BMB**

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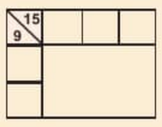
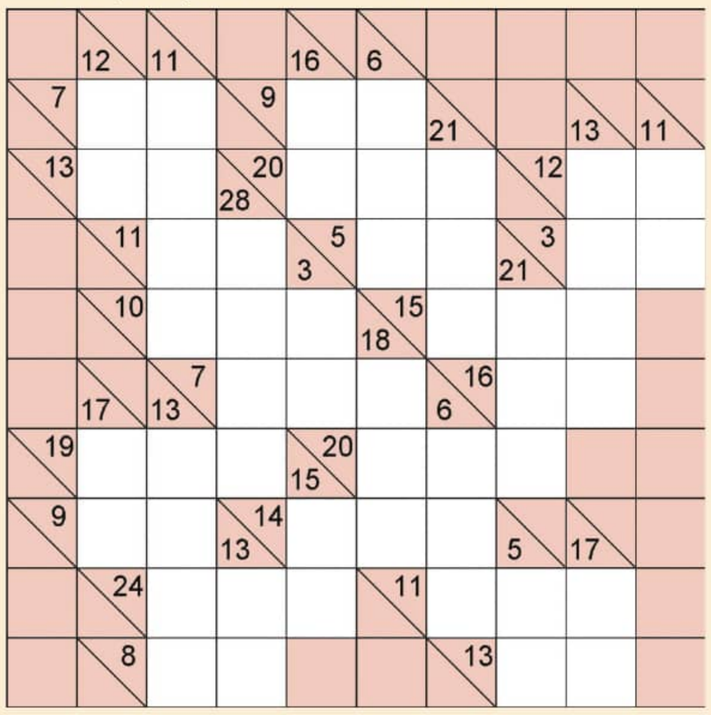
Kakuro

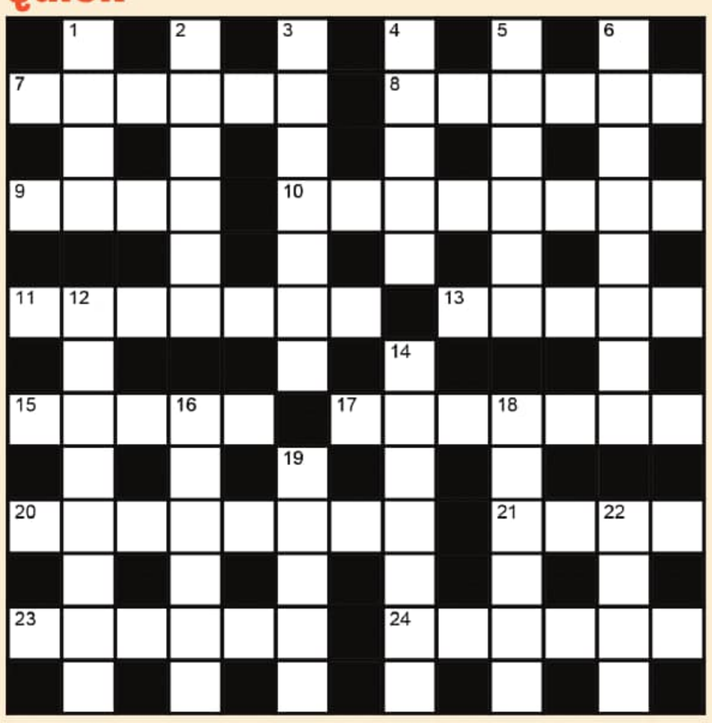
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Alcoholic beverage (6)
8 ___ forward : moved forward cautiously and slowly? (6)
9 Peep; peer (4)
10 Exclude (5,3)
11 Having a pleasant odour (7)
13 _ ___ of the tongue : inadvertent mistake in speaking? (1,4)
15 Anchor firmly (5)
17 Sleep (7)
20 The pleasure principle (8)
21 Chance in a game (4)
23 Wodehouses famous valet (6)
24 Ruffled in temper; slang for annoyed (6)

DOWN

1 Grate, grind or rasp (4)
2 Author ___ Bond (6)
3 Questioned thoroughly (7)
4 Northernmost district of Karnataka (5)
5 Groups of eight (6)
6 Safety (8)
12 Acted as a master of ceremonies (8)
14 Jim Carrey film (3,4)
16 Develop, come into being (6)
18 A tasty little piece of food (3-3)
19 Booth; stand (5)
22 Decays or putrefies (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS U

G RHA VZ FVL... YHKHE TPPLIH TY GYYHE VE TY VLNHE UVPH, YHKHE T OGPALGPH.

Linemaro

Let's flip a coin. Heads you're mine, tails I'm yours

Mindchow

What screws us up the most in life is the picture in our head of how it is supposed to be

Joke of the day

Balancing the budget is like going to haven: everybody wants to do it, but nobody wants to do what you have to do to get there.

Loop

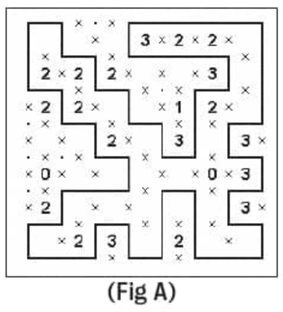
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

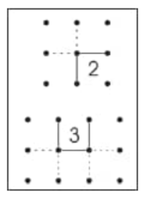
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

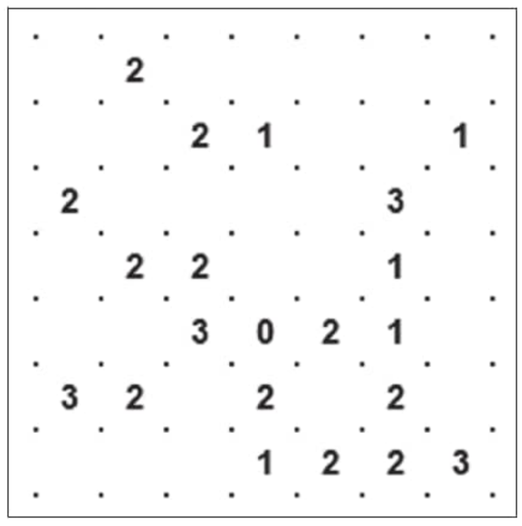
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



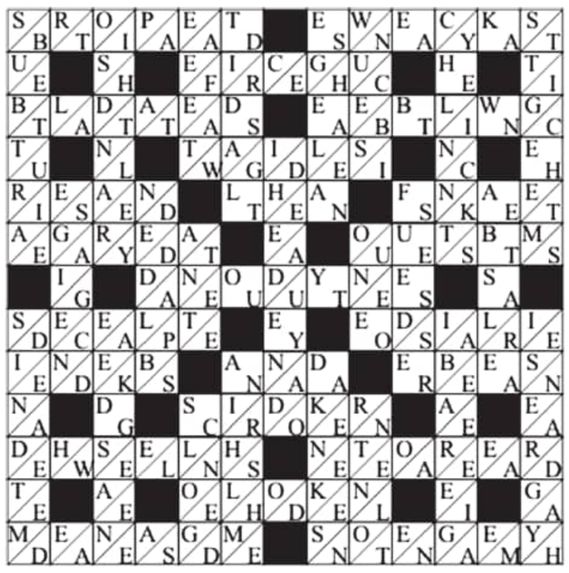
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



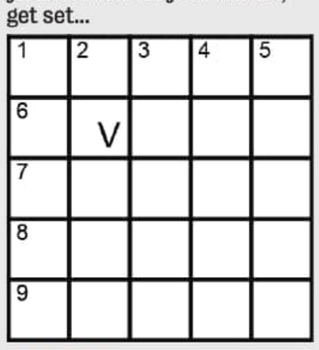
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

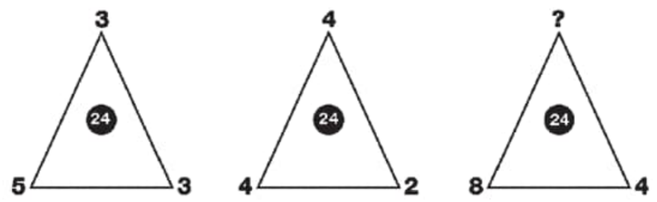
1 Lac of; 6 OO Vol; 7 Irons; 8 I need; 9 Re Dud

DOWN

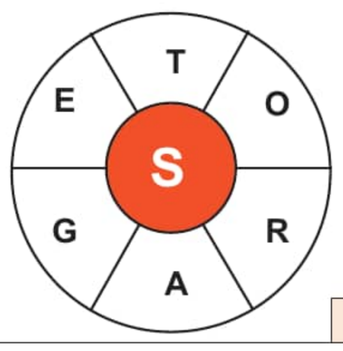
1 Found; 2 Do Ivo; 3 Credo; 4 Anile; 5 Lores

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the last triangle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

17 Average; 19 Good; 21 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	2		4	7		
		3		5		9		
	8		3		9		2	
		7				4		
5			9	4	6			1
		6				3		
	6		1		5		3	
		9		2		6		
		4	7		3	5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 4

1 3 8 8

Medium

= 12

2 8 9 9

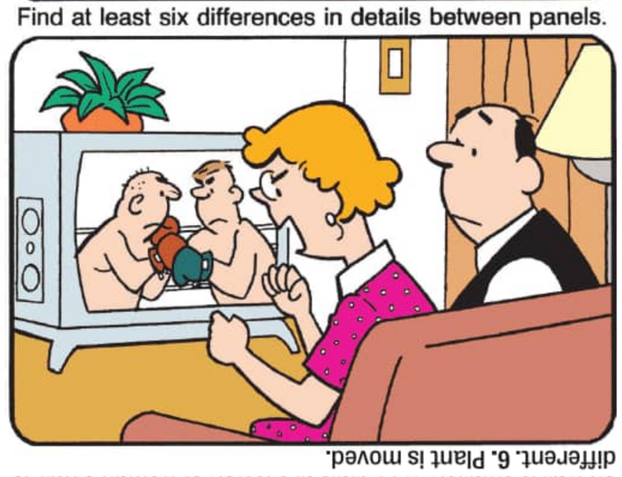
Hard

= 39

4 6 7 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Tie is missing. 3. Picture on wall is smaller. 4. TV dials are lower. 5. Woman's hair is different. 6. Plant is moved.

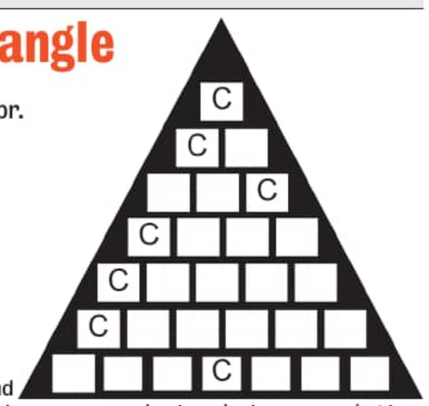
Riddler

The following sentences can be completed by adding two words that are anagrams of one another. Each word has only four letters.

1. If you need some stamps, then you must ____ by the ____ office.
2. If you eat a whole ____ of a wedding cake, you may develop a spare ____ around your middle.

Alpha triangle

1 Third letter
2 Common Era, abbr.
3 Calendar abbr.
4 Give it up
5 Apollo of Rocky
6 Manned
7 Destroyed

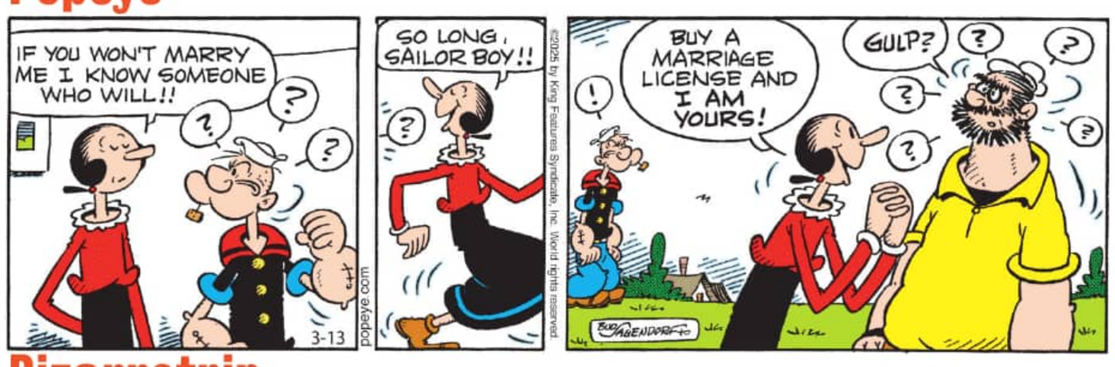


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

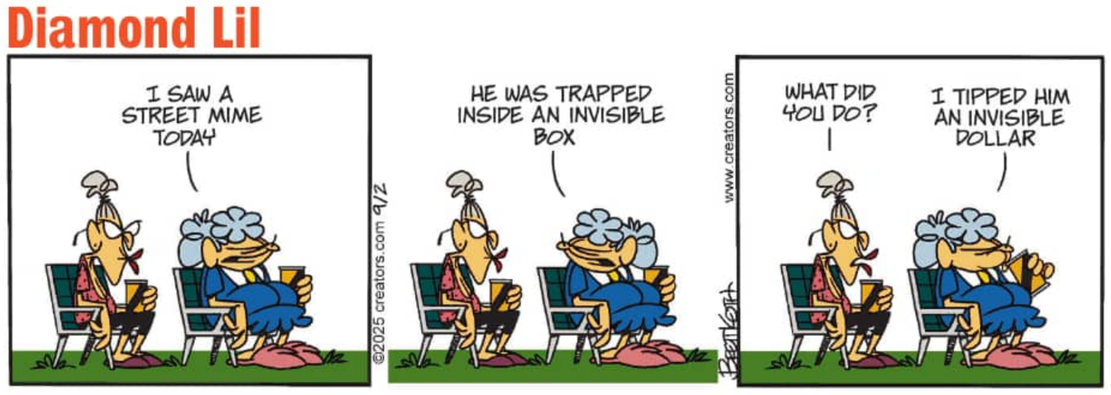
COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil


I SAW A STREET MIME TODAY
HE WAS TRAPPED INSIDE AN INVISIBLE BOX
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I TIPPED HIM AN INVISIBLE DOLLAR
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BARTHOLOMEW

Hart of the city

HI, EOMMA! HI, HALMEONI!
HOW WAS CAMP, DANA?
GREAT! I THINK I MADE A LOT OF NEW FRIENDS. OH, AND I WANNA BE A DIRECTOR WHEN I GROW UP.
A DIRECTOR? WHAT HAPPENED TO ACTOR AND HISTORIAN?
I CAN DO ALL THREE!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

EVERY DAY RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL, I'D DRIVE TO BURGER BARN AND PICK UP A BURGER AND SOME FRIES.
EVERYTHING WAS CLEANED UP BY 3:30, AND I HAD THE WHOLE NIGHT AHEAD OF ME TO WORK.
PEOPLE WOULD TELL ME THAT YOU CAN'T EAT HAMBURGERS FOR SUPPER EVERY NIGHT...
BUT, REALLY, YOU CAN!
9-2
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Sunday invites introspection, Archer. Use this downtime not for planning but for genuine rest. Your energy levels benefit greatly from unplugging from digital noise. Consider activities that connect you to nature or simple pleasures. Recharging your internal batteries now ensures you meet next week's demands with your usual unstoppable, optimistic fire.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Confidence will guide you through the day. Take the lead at work and embrace new learning opportunities. Stay curious but mindful, if wanderlust hits, prioritise your health and avoid unnecessary travel today.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Finance looks strong, but someone close might need help. Work demands creativity, so think freely. Love could surprise you tonight, especially if you're partnered. A romantic, rewarding evening awaits your heart.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Extra responsibilities may seem heavy but reflect others' trust in your leadership. Stay cairn and deliver. Later, unwind with friends for good conversation, but remember to stay cautious and safe.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Joy surrounds you today from work, family, and friends. Expect pleasant surprises and even gifts from loved ones. It's a day filled with affection, warmth, and uplifting emotional connections everywhere.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Showcase your natural leadership at work; your initiative won't go unnoticed. Communicate openly with your partner and express desires clearly. Reward yourself with something nice, you've truly earned a little indulgence.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Fight off laziness with action and focus. Stay punctual and proactive at work; people notice your efforts. Eat fruits, stay hydrated, and keep your energy high throughout this productive, balanced day.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Your mindset shifts toward positivity today. Negativity fades as you see things differently. Use this fresh energy to begin something you've postponed. The universe supports new starts and courageous moves.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Romance fills your day through sweet gestures. Stay focused at work despite distractions, morning meditation helps. Treat yourself to something enjoyable but manage spending wisely for long-term balance.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Romance may pause, but your career shines bright. Superiors recognise your efforts, motivating further growth. Celebrate this success and share your positivity, but if you travel, stay cautious and close.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Your perspective on relationships transforms today, positivity replaces doubt or vice versa. Explore new interests but prioritise wisely. Release tension, focus on calmness, and let the day flow with peaceful productivity.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Your magnetic charm is undeniable today. People notice your glow, especially someone you've desired. Be bold, seize opportunities, and chase what you want, the universe is aligning perfectly in your favour.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Reflect on your five-year goals and jot them down. Recognition comes for recent achievements, and your partner deeply appreciates your effort. It's a day of progress, gratitude, and meaningful clarity.

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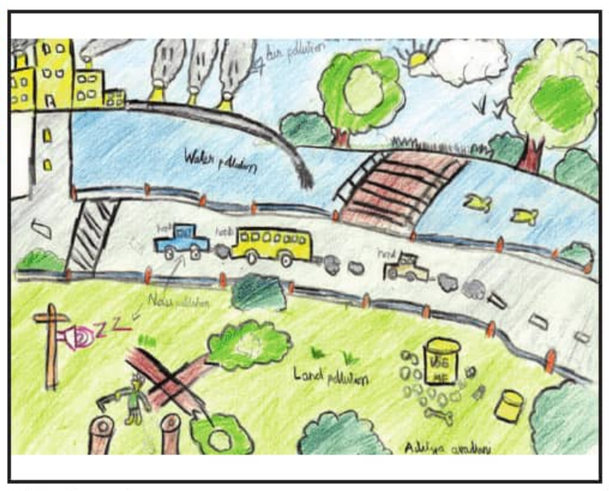
KIDZONE



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

[(2(3²))^½ + (2(6²))^½ + (2(7²))^½] / (2(4²))^½ =
[(6^2/2) + (2(6^2/2) + (2(7^2/2)] / (2(4^2/2)) =
[(6)+(12) + (14)] / 8 =
32 / 8 = 4

RIDDLER

1. stop, Post &
2. tier, tire

QUOTE UNCODE

I bag of you... never assume an inner or an outer pose, never a disguise.

FAST FIVE

F	O	C	A	L
O	V	O	L	O
N	O	R	I	S
D	I	E	N	E
U	D	D	E	R

STRIKE OUT

S	T	O	P	A	T		S	N	A	C	K	S
U		S		F	I	C	H	U		H		I
T	A	T	T	E	D		E	B	B	I	N	G
U		L		W	A	D	E	S		C		H
R	E	E	D		L	E	N		S	K	A	T
E	G	R	E	T		A		O	U	S	T	S
	G		A	N	O	D	Y	N	E		A	
D	E	A	L	T		E		O	D	I	L	E
I	D	E	S		A	N	D		E	B	E	N
A		G		C	I	D	E	R		E		E
D	W	E	L	L	S		N	E	A	R	E	R
E		A		O	L	D	E	N		I		G
M	A	N	A	G	E		S	T	E	A	M	Y

QUICK

													D	
									E		K			S
J		E	E	V	E	S		S	H	I	R	T	Y	
		R		L		O		A		B		O		
H	E	D	O	N	I	S	M		T	U	R	N		
		P				K		K		E				
E	M	B	E	D		S	H	U	T	E	Y	E		
		O			D			T			T			
S	C	E	N	T	E	D		A	S	L	I	P		
		I			L		R		T			R		
P	E	E	K		L	E	A	V	E	O	U	T		
	L		S		I		D		T		C			
L	I	Q	U	O	R		I	N	C	H	E	D		
F		R		G		B		O		S				

ALPHA TRIANGLE

C, CE, Dec, Cede, Creed, Crewed, Wrecked.

GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 8–8 + 1 = 4
Medium
2 + 9 + 9–8 = 12
Hard
6 x 4 + 8 + 7 = 39

SUDOKU

6	9	1	2	8	4	7	5	3
2	7	3	6	5	1	9	4	8
4	8	5	3	7	9	1	2	6
9	1	7	8	3	2	4	6	5
5	3	2	9	4	6	8	7	1
8	4	6	5	1	7	3	9	2
7	6	8	1	9	5	2	3	4
3	5	9	4	2	8	6	1	7
1	2	4	7	6	3	5	8	9

MENSA PUZZLE

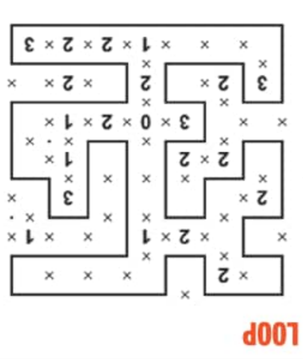
2. In each triangle, add the lower two digits and multiply by the top digit to give the value in the centre.

BULL'S EYE

aster, east, rest, roast, rose, sage, sate, sear, seat, soar, sore, sort, stag, stage, stager, star, stare, STORAGE, store, tsar

KAKURO

LOOP



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Community-driven composting effort powers a greener HSR

Block B residents join decentralised composting effort transforming wet waste into nutrient-rich compost, cutting landfill dependence and strengthening sustainable neighbourhood practices

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In a move towards sustainable neighbourhood living, the HSR Citizens Forum has launched a decentralised block-level composting initiative for the 750 households of Block B, Sector 7. The project aims to process wet waste locally, reducing dependence on landfills while producing nutrient-rich compost for parks, gardens, and community spaces. Speaking about the initiative, BNS Ratnakar from the HSR Citizens Forum said, "This project empowers residents to take ownership of their environmental impact. By treating wet waste right where it is generated, we not only reduce the strain on landfills but also create valuable compost that enriches our neighbourhood greenery." The composting facility will be launched on 13 December.

There will be 20 composters, with each lane receiving two units. Operation and maintenance will be carried out for one year, supported by hired staff. The composting system begins with residents segregating wet waste from dry and reject waste at home, ensuring the production of high-quality compost. Each day, segregated wet waste is collected from all 750 households by auto collectors and handed over to trained HSR Citizen Forum Karmikas, who handle day-to-day operations of the composting unit. The Karmikas prepare the collected waste by mixing it with dry leaf powder, cocopeat, old compost as an inoculant, microbial powder to accelerate decomposition, and occasionally cow dung slurry to enhance quality.

Daily wet waste processing creates nutrient-rich compost for community spaces; Inset: A composting unit set up in HSR

Each day, segregated wet waste is collected from all 750 households by auto collectors and handed over to trained HSR Citizen Forum Karmikas, who handle day-to-day operations of the composting unit

Members of the HSR Citizens Forum explained that this prepared blend is then fed daily into the Eira Lane aerobic composter until capacity is reached. "To ensure proper oxygen flow, faster decomposition, even breakdown, and a smell-free process, the compost is turned every ten days. After approximately 45 days, the mature compost dubbed 'black gold' is harvested, sieved, cured, and used locally to enrich parks, medians, community gardens, and even home terrace gardens," said Ratnakar. The project is supported by Arvind VH under their CSR program, along with HSR Citizen Forum Karmikas running the operations, GBA staff overseeing waste collection, and the HSR Solid Waste Management team offering technical guidance and monitoring.

"Residents are encouraged to participate actively by segregating their waste daily, handing over clean wet waste, avoiding plastics and contaminants, and supporting the project, helping Block B become a model for community-driven, sustainable living," he added. The HSR Citizens Forum team pointed out that by processing wet waste locally, the initiative significantly reduces the volume of garbage sent to Bengaluru's already overburdened landfills, while also cutting down transport-related emissions from long-haul waste collection. The nutrient-rich compost produced will directly enrich parks, medians, community gardens, and terrace gardens, promoting greener, healthier surroundings.

Beyond environmental gains, the initiative encourages residents to adopt better waste segregation habits and fosters a sense of ownership over their ecological footprint, making sustainable living a visible and practical part of everyday life.

The HSR Citizen Forum (HSRCF) is a volunteer-led civic group in HSR Layout, Bengaluru, focused on sustainability, cleanliness, and civic improvements. The forum collaborates with residents, GBA, and environmental groups to implement initiatives such as waste management, lake protection, and public outreach.

State mobilises forces to curb narcotics

State has taken a firm stand to curb drug production, sale and abuse, launching what Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara described in the Legislative Council on December 11 as a "war" on narcotics networks until the menace is fully controlled. Responding to a question from member K Abdul Jabbar, the minister said the global drug trade has grown into a high-profit industry driven by interstate and international cartels, making the fight a universal challenge. To counter rising drug use in Karnataka, the government has formed an Anti-Narcotics Task Force headed by an Additional Director General of Police and intensified awareness drives in schools, colleges and police stations about the illegality of cannabis cultivation and sale, as well as the health dangers of drug consumption.

Parameshwara said intelligence on trafficking networks is gathered through local informants, crime units, and beat personnel, with police stations instructed to monitor drug-related activities closely. Monthly outreach in schools and colleges, surprise inspections at parcel hubs, courier services, resorts, and farmhouses, and special patrols along city outskirts to prevent drug parties have been strengthened. June 26 is observed as Anti-Drug Day to raise awareness. Officers are directed to take strict action under the NDPS Act against anyone involved in drug production or sale. — BMB

4,500 electric buses to transform BMTC

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy informed the Legislative Council that the Centre has approved 4,500 electric buses for BMTC under the PM e-DRIVE scheme on a GCC model, and the tender process is currently under way. He said BMTC operates within a 25-kilometre radius of BBMP limits and runs 6,274 schedules on 1,817 routes, covering 13 lakh kilometres daily and carrying an average of 44 lakh passengers. As of November 2025, BMTC has 7,051 buses in service. He added that tenders are being floated for advertising rights on buses to boost non-fare revenue, with licence holders required to pay the prescribed fees. The Minister said the Finance Department has directed transport corporations to purchase 650 buses this financial year. A proposal to approve 500 diesel buses for KSRTC and 144 city buses is under consideration. He added that five Volvo multi-axle seater and five sleeper coaches have been procured, with 60 non-AC sleeper coaches joining the fleet by March 2026. — BMB

City steps up scientific waste processing effort

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has intensified efforts to scientifically manage the city's increasing waste, with a renewed emphasis on strict segregation at source. A formal notification now mandates every household to separate wet, dry and household hazardous sanitary waste, supported by an extensive public awareness campaign. To strengthen compliance, two link workers have been deployed in every ward to educate residents on proper segregation, while IEC programmes continue across the city. Primary collection vehicles have been assigned specifically to transport segregated wet and dry waste. Enforcement has also been tightened, with fines imposed on citizens and establishments that fail to segregate waste or dump it in unauthorized areas. Due to these efforts, Bengaluru's waste segregation rate has improved to 55%. As part of its landfill reduction strategy, BSWML began transporting low-value plastic to the waste-to-energy plant on October 14, 2025. Starting with four compactors, the system has expanded to 60–70 compactors daily, sending 300–350 MT for processing. Low-value plastic disposal rose from 11,99,535 MT in October to 67,26,252 MT in November. Improved segregation reduced landfill-bound compactors from 385 to 320. M/s Dalmia Cements Limited will receive 300–350 MT daily from December 15, providing EPR credits to BSWML. — BMB

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Footpath danger

Hesaraghatta

A hazardous footpath between Sattva Laurel Heights and D'Mart on Hesaraghatta Main Road is endangering pedestrians.

Road obstruction

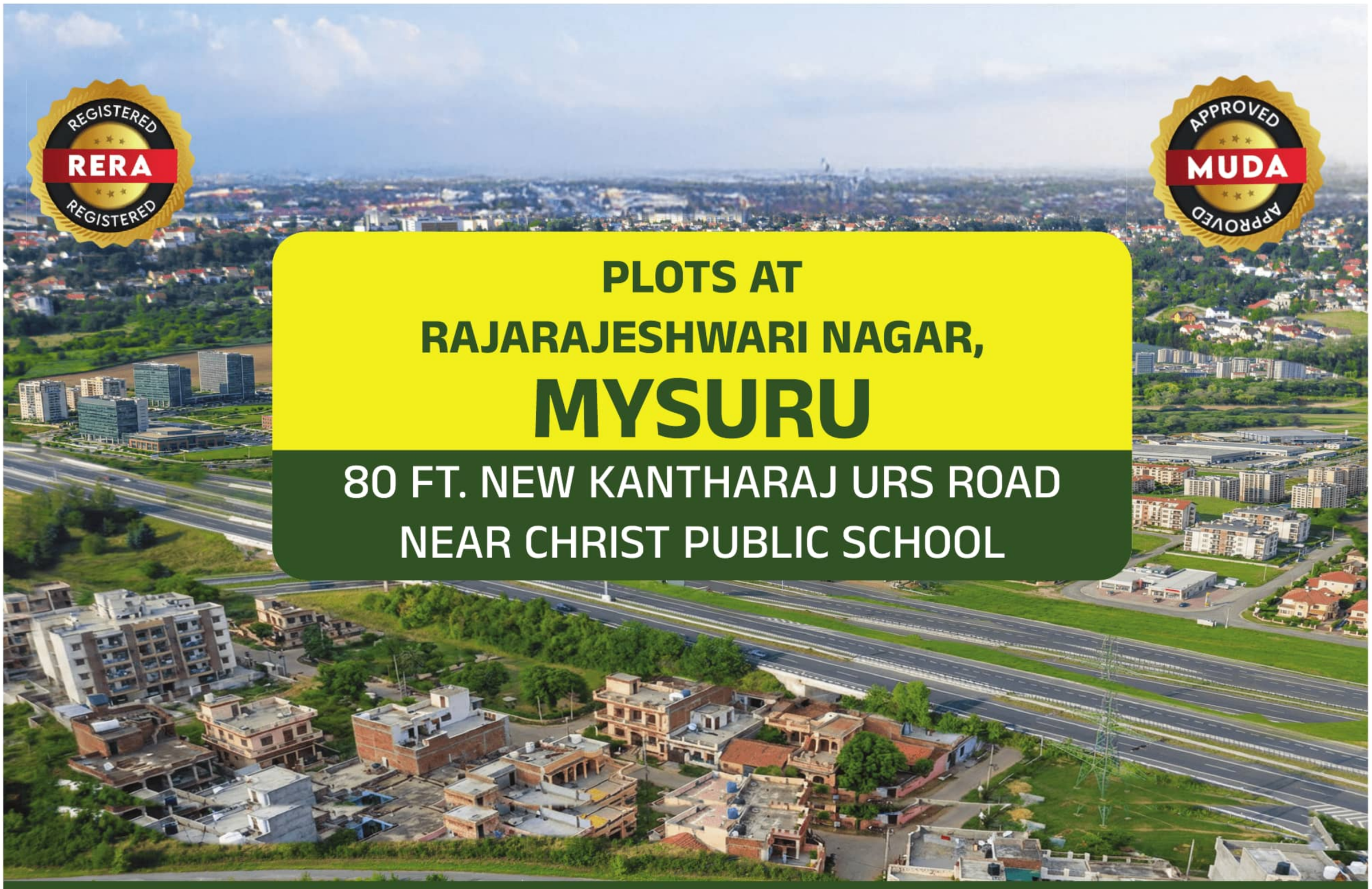
Trinity Circle

A massive pile of debris and mud from minor repairs is obstructing Midford Garden Street near Trinity Circle.

Safety risk

Hebbal

An open drain or uncovered manhole on the footpath along 12th Cross Road, Phase 2, Vinayaka Layout, Kempapura, Hebbal, poses a serious risk to pedestrians.



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